

Saban Inks With Station Groups For Anderson Spec

Saban Prods.' first "American Expose, Live With Jack Anderson" event special, "Who Murdered JFK?," has been cleared by the ad-hoc event programming consortium formed by the United/Chris-Craft, Gaylord Broadcasting and MCA Broadcasting station groups — representing more than 25% of the U.S.

The venture — tentatively slated for November to coincide with the 25th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination — marks the first coventure of the three groups since they announced the loosely based association at the National Association of Television Program Executives confab in February. Westinghouse Broadcasting was also linked with the group but is not at present part of this deal.

The arrangement also represents the first of four specials featuring the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist planned by Saban (*Daily Variety*, April 4), with Orbis Communications handling distribution and national barter sales. The project is being produced in association with the writer/producer/director team of Malcolm Barbour and John Langley, coproducers on Geraldo Rivera's highly rated live spex.

The three station groups include MCA's WWOR in New York and Chris-Craft's KCOP in Los Angeles.

Other live-event spex on the Saban slate, to be presented quarterly, are "Terrorism U.S.A." and "The Gold Of Marcos," the latter focusing on treasure left behind by the ousted leader of the Philippines. Because of Anderson's sources, the produces say exclusive information will be revealed during each of the programs.

Mikes are present...

CBS Sets Cronkite Pieces From Atlanta

NEW YORK — CBS News said Walter Cronkite will present "commentary and analysis" during the upcoming Democratic National Convention in Atlanta, July 18-21. The vet anchor is scheduled to appear during CBS News' convention coverage between 9-11 p.m. on the first three nights and 8-11 p.m. on July 21.

The announcement at least temporarily settles the "Cronkite question" at CBS News, where he has been a "special correspondent." Cronkite maintains he is free to work elsewhere when a new 10-year contract goes into effect come November. At that time he will lose the "special correspondent" mantle and his annual paycheck will dwindle to \$150,000 from \$1,000,000 annually.

Lately, unhappy with his back-seat status at CBS News, Cronkite has made it known that he has talked about going to work for other tv news organizations, including Ted Koppel's recently formed production company Koppel Communications and the syndicated "USA Today."